

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12-16 and 18-24 are currently pending, although claims 12-15 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Bland for indicating the claims 1, 5-17, 9, 13 (if rejoined), 16 and 18-24 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if certain language issues in the claims were addressed. In particular, claims 1, 5, 6, 16 and 18 were objected to, and claims 5-7, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. By way of the above amendments which were made in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending objections and rejections have been rendered moot, and that the objections and rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of all remaining withdrawn claims at this time. In this regard, Applicants note that claims 8 and 17 have been canceled.

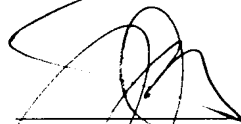
It is Applicants' intention to place the present application in condition for allowance by the above amendments. Accordingly, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned should any outstanding issues remain despite the above amendments and comments.

Application No. 10/813,056
Response to Office Action dated December 19, 2008

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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